

What Can I Do for My Beach

Urban Storm Water Runoff:

- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains – these outlets drain directly to lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains. If your community does not already have a program for collecting household hazardous wastes, ask your local government to establish one.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- Encourage local government officials to develop construction erosion/sediment control ordinances in your community.
- Contact your local health or environmental protection officials if you think your water is contaminated.

To protect your health:

- Avoid swimming after a heavy rain.
- Look for and avoid storm drains, trash and other signs of pollution along the beach.

As a community:

- Work with local authorities to create a beach monitoring program, if one is not already in place.
- Conduct sanitary surveys to identify all sources of pollution.
- Inspect septic systems and sanitary facilities to prevent fecal contamination.
- Clean out catch basins on a regular basis.
- Control erosion from construction sites.
- Reduce or control the use of street sanding.
- Reduce the use of fertilizers, which can encourage bacterial growth in urban watersheds.
- Check to see if storm drains have dry weather flows.
- Encourage the community to have a no discharge area and boat pumpouts.
- Clean up after pets.
- Get involved in the new storm water permits.
- Encourage local beaches to notify the public of water quality conditions.



For more information, visit:
www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches

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